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United States Department of Agriculture
Extension Service
Office of Cooperative Extension Work

NATIONAL 4-H CLUB RADIO PROGRAM 1931-32 Music Achievement Test "Learning to Know America's Music" LIBRARY

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Modern American Music

Descriptive notes prepared and broadcast by R. A. Turner, field agent, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture, to interpret the group of musical compositions played by the United States Marine Band during the National 4-H Club Radio Program of December 3, 1932.

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How do you do, 4-H club folks and friends.

To-day is a rather important one in our series of musical programs since it brings to a close the National 4-H Music Achievement Test for this year, during which we have been "learning to know America's music." To-day we study modern American music.

Youth Triumphant - Hadley

The first composition to be used in our consideration of the works of contemporary American composers is entitled, "Youth Triumphant," by Hadley. Henry Kimball Hadley is a native of Somerville, Mass. He received his first instruction in piano and violin from his father, and later studied in American conservatories and in Europe. Hadley's activities as a conductor have been extensive. From the time he was 22 years of age, he has conducted orchestras in both Europe and the United States. Since 1920 he has been associate conductor of the Philharmonic Society in New York City, where he now lives.

Among American composers, Hadley occupies a position of prominence. His works represent nearly every form of musical composition - symphonies, overtures, tone poems, cantatas, operas, ballads, and over 100 songs.

The United States Marine Band, Capt. Taylor Branson conducting, opens our study of modern american music by playing the overture Youth Triumphant, by Hadley.

Far Off I Hear a Lover's Flute - Cadman

Our next composition brings us a bit of Indian music and is entitled "Far Off I Hear a Lover's Flute," by Cadman. Charles Wakefield Cadman, who was born in Pennsylvania and now lives in California, is an American composer who has told us many Indian stories through the medium of music.

DISTRIBUTION: - A copy of this material has been sent to each State club leader.

From his collection called "Four American Indian Songs" we now hear Far Off I Hear a Lover's Flute, as it is played by the United States Marine Band, Capt. Taylor Branson conducting.

Cripple Creek - Stringfield

Another contemporary American composer is Lamar Stringfield, who was born in Raleigh, N. C., and who is now research associate in the Institute of Folk Music at the University of North Carolina. Stringfield, still a comparatively young man, has specialized in American folk music, including that of the mountaineer, the negro, the Indian, and the cowboy.

Illustrative of one type of his works we hear Cripple Creek from his suite entitled "The Southern Mountains." With Capt. Taylor Branson conducting, the United States Marine Band plays Cripple Creek, by Stringfield.

A Rustic Scene - Busch

Next we turn to the works of a composer who was born in Denmark but who, as a young man, came to America, settled in Kansas City, Mo., and has since been active as a conductor, composer, and teacher of music. His name is Carl Busch.

From his many compositions we have chosen A Rustic Scene, which is played now by the United States Marine Band under the leadership of Capt. Taylor Branson.

One sometimes hears the statement that America has developed no music of its own - that we are compelled to fall back on the music of other countries. Such does not seem to be the case. In one of its recent publications, the International Society for Contemporary Music lists the names and works of from 50 to 60 eminent living American composers, and about 175 well-known living American composers. Add to these the names and works of American composers who are not now living, and one has conclusive proof that America has made a notable contribution to the music of the world. In our consideration of this year's theme alone, Learning to Know America's Music, we have studied the works of 45 different American composers.

Song of the Bayou - Bloom

The next composer of modern American music is one whose works we have not studied thus far this year. We now hear a composition called "Song of the Bayou," hy Bloom, which, under the baton of Capt: Taylor Branson, is played for us by the United States Marine Band.

We now come to the last selection on to-day's musical program. But before we listen to it, may I call your attention to the fact that with this program we bring to a close our year of study of America's music. The theme Learning to Know America's Music has been appropriate, because this is the bicentennial year of Washington's birth. During the past several months we have studied America's Indian Music, America's Negro Songs and Spirituals, America's Patriotic Music, America's Hymns and Religious Songs, America's Country Dances, America's Favorite Songs, America's Favorite Composers, Early American Music, American Operas, and to-day, Modern American Music. We have every reason to believe that the hundreds of thousands of 4-H club members throughout the country, for whom these musical programs are especially designed, now have a clearer understanding of the music of their native America.

With the national 4-H club radio program of Saturday, January 7, we shall imitate the 1933 National 4-H Music Achievement Test which will have as its theme The World's Great Composers. Each month we shall study the life and works of two or more of the world's most eminent composers. Ask your State 4-H club leader or your county extension agent about plans for participation in that series of musical radio programs.

Tell It to the Marines - Branson

Now for our concluding number. You will agree that it is fitting to close our study of the theme Learning to Know America's Music with a composition written by Capt. Taylor Branson, leader of the United States Marine Band, which has played for us during the year. Capt. Branson has named his composition Tell It To The Marines.

With the composer, Capt. Taylor Branson, conducting, the United States Marine Band brings to a close our study of America's music by playing Tell It To The Marines.

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